

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12, 14, and 16 were pending and examined. All examined claims were rejected in the Office Action and the specification was objected. Claim 12 and the paragraph [0058] of the specification have been amended as noted above. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Objection to the specification

The specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The new sentences have been added into a paragraph [0058] of the specification to provide a written description of claim 12. Support for this amendment may be found in Fig. 2, for example.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 12, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jang (U.S. Pat. No. 6,770,088) in view of Richter (U.S. Pat. No. 5,807,404), and further view of Globerman (U.S. Pat. No. 5,776,161).

Claim 12 as currently amended recites that the S-shaped connectors on the cylindrical wall section are spaced at least two hinges apart.

Jang discloses a stent 10 having expansion columns 24 and connecting struts 38 in Figs. 9B, 9C, and 9D. Connecting struts 38 are connected to all of joining struts 30 where expansion columns 24 are adjacent to each other. However, Jang fails to teach that the S-shaped connectors on the cylindrical wall section are spaced at least two hinges apart.

Richter discloses a stent 1 having flexible connectors 8 and 9, which can be U, Z or S shaped (Fig. 11 and Col. 6 lines 57-59), connecting C-shaped loops 10 and 11 in Figs. 1 and 2. Flexible connectors 8 and 9 are connected to all of C-shaped loops 10 and 11. However, Richter fails to teach that the S-shaped connectors on the cylindrical wall section are spaced at least two hinges (C-shaped loops) apart.

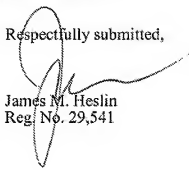
Globerman discloses a stent having radial rings 33 and longitudinal connectors 35. Curved portions (hinges) of adjacent radial rings 33 are connected with

longitudinal connectors 35 every other hinge. However, Globerman fails to teach that the S-shaped connectors on the cylindrical wall section are spaced at least two hinges apart.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 12 as well as claims 13-16 dependent thereon clearly distinguish the teachings of Jang '088, Richter '484, and Globerman '161. It is thus believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance and requested that the application be passed to issue at an early date.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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